

Message Text

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15

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 EB-07 FEA-01 INT-05 OES-03 CU-02 COME-00

OMB-01 TRSE-00 STR-01 /075 W
----- 110266

R 310956Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8175

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 696

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR KS JA

SUBJECT: ROK-JAPANESE RELATIONS

1. JAPANESE AMBASSADOR USHIROKU, WHO DEPARTS FEB 10, GAVE ME A FEW GLEANINGS FROM HIS ROUND OF FAREWELL CALLS. HE MET YESTERDAY WITH PRESIDENT PARK, WHO DECORATED HIM WITH THE DIPLOMATIC SERVICE MEDAL. CONVERSATION WAS CORDIAL AND GENERAL IN CONTENT, EXCEPT FOR PARK URGING EARLY RATIFICATION OF ROK/GOJ OIL EXPLORATION AGREEMENT. USHIROKU SENSED THAT ROKG MAY BE PLANNING TO DRILL UNILATERALLY IN DISPUTED ZONE IF DIET DOES NOT RATIFY AGREEMENT. PARK ALSO EXPRESSED GENERAL SATISFACTION WITH STATE OF RELATIONS OVER THE PAST THREE YEARS.

2. FAREWELL CALL ON PRIME MINISTER WAS ALSO BASICALLY GENERAL IN CONTENT. USHIROKU RAISED WITH PRIME MINISTER RELEASE OF TWO JAPANESE STUDENTS AND FOUND ROKG POSITION STIFFER THAN IN PAST. PRIME MINISTER LINKED RELEASE FOR FIRST TIME WITH RENEWED GOJ INVESTIGATION OF ASSASSINATION PLOT, WHICH USHIROKU FOUND UNACCEPTABLE. PRIME MINISTER WAS
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ALSO LESS CORDIAL AND FORTHCOMING THAN IN PAST,

ACCORDING TO USHIROKU.

3. USHIROKU ALSO MENTIONED THAT JAPANESE BUSINESS INTERESTS PROCEEDING WITH NEW INVESTMENTS IN KOREA, INCLUDING MITSUI-DOW JOINT VENTURE IN PETROCHEMICAL COMPLEX, BUT INVESTMENT FUNDS FROM JAPAN LESS READILY FORTHCOMING DUE TO BUSINESS RECESSION. TO COMPENSATE FOR DROP IN TRADE AND INVESTMENT, USHIROKU HAS RECOMMENDED WITHDRAWAL OF GUIDANCE TO JAPANESE TOURISTS TO DISCOURAGE TOURISM TO KOREA. HE ANTICIPATES POSITIVE RESPONSE AFTER USUAL BUREAUCRATIC CONSIDERATION WHICH SHOULD TAKE SEVERAL MONTHS.
SNEIDER

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